# The Social System in Islam

## The Status and Role of Women and Men

Throughout history, the world has scorned women as subhuman and, at best, second-class citizens. Under today's secular societies, the status of women has degenerated to the level of merchandise that is manufactured by the sensationalist tide of beauty, fitness, and everlasting youth, and plastered onto the magazines and screens in the name of profit. Islam perceives women as an honour and elevates the status of women to a level of respect and dignity that no social structure can attain. The Islamic Society functions to protect the woman's honour from all slander, exploitation and attack and ensure the elevated status of women.

The main role of the woman as a wife and mother obligates her to look after the children and provide comfort for her husband. By no means do the woman's responsibilities negate the role of the husband to care for the children or restrict the wife to pursue a societal role and a career. When Europe was busy debating whether or not women had souls, Islam encouraged the woman to hold a career, establish her business, engage in commerce, and participate in the political spheres of society. Though the woman looks after the family and can finance herself, the actual obligation of providing food, shelter and clothing on the woman and the family falls on the father and husband.

## Women and Men in Political Life

Islam has mandated upon women and men the responsibility to participate in the political life to account those responsible for running the affairs of the state. In the current absence of the Islamic State, the Muslim Woman is obliged to work to establish the Islam and to participate in the Islamic Call by inviting Non-Muslims to Islam and bringing the Muslims resume the Islamic personality and character. Throughout the Islamic history, many women served as prominent scholars, judges, and advisors to the rulers, and the Pledge of War (Bayat al-Aqaba At-Thaany) that Muhammad (saaw) took from the Ansar in Medina witnessed the presence of two women.

## Women and Men are not the Same

Allah (swt) created men and women as clearly distinct in their physiology, and such a distinction has mandated certain responsibilities specific to each. Any person can clearly perceive such a distinction, and it is wrong to design a system under the façade of equality that ignores such a reality. In Islam, both the man and the woman have obligations and roles that are similar and other specific obligations legislated by the Creator to each. For instance, Islam obliges the man to finance the family but excuses the woman from these responsibilities. In Islam, both men and women conduct their lives according to the Commandments of Allah (swt) in their general and specific responsibilities, and the equality stems from the reward and punishment that they will receive from Allah (swt) for fulfilling or neglecting their responsibilities.

## The Laws of Gathering (Private and Public Space)

Unlike the unrestricted and chaotic mixing in Western societies, Islam ensures modesty between men and women. In the public life, men and women are forbidden to gather in both the public and the private life, unless the Shariah has stipulated and permitted otherwise. Islam permitted mixed gathering for educational purposes, business, trading, and Hajj, but socializing, and gathering for entertainment purposes, whether in schools or at work, is completely forbidden. Also, both men and women are obliged to lower their gaze and a man and woman cannot be alone without a Mahrem because Muhammad (saaw) said, "A woman should not meet and mix with a man alone unless she has a mahrem with her." Such values would dramatically alter the face of society. Within the Islamic State the public transport system. The workplace, and the educational institutions would manifest the segregation of men and women to ensure the protection and dignity of the social fabric. The West has endeavoured with all of its financial and political avenues to curtail the emergence of Islam because the tranquillity and stability that the Islamic Social System provides would seal the fate of the billion-dollar industries that thrive on the vices and corruption of the prevailing decadence in Islam's absence.

**Marriage**

Allah (swt) has endowed human beings with the instincts of love and procreation. Unlike in the West, where no restrictions are placed on the these instincts, Islam has given mankind a system to control and express them through the institution of marriage. Allah (swt) says in the Qur'an:

*And among His signs is this: that He created mates for you from yourselves, that you may find rest and peace of mind in them, and he ordained between you love and mercy. Verily, in that are signs for those who reflect. [Ar-Rum: 21]*

Contrary to the image portrayed by the West, the woman cannot be forced into a marriage. Islam does give the man a degree over the woman, but solely to protect the woman and not as a liaison for the man to have a master-servant relationship. Obeying the husband constitutes part of obeying the laws of Allah (swt), and Islam emphasizes the principle of having good relationships, as Muhammad (saaw) said, "The best amongst you is the one who is best to his wife."

In Islam, the husband has the role of pleasing, caring for, and respecting the wife. If the husband commands the wife to go against Allah (swt) and one of her obligations, the wife must disobey the husband. By establishing specific responsibilities and laws to govern the marriage life, Islam ensures that both husband and wife remain as slaves to Allah (swt) and protects them from slavery to one another.

**Islamic and Western Perspective on Love**

The current society has defined love on purely physical and emotional dimensions. Love has become the most popular word in all languages, but no one has a clear understanding of its meaning. The results establishing such a central concept in relationships upon vague, ambiguous criteria are clear in the rising statistics of broken relationships, failed marriages, and widespread social misery.

Islam recognizes the importance of this relationship, and unlike the West, gives clear guidelines to the duties and responsibilities of the husband and wife, removing the confusion and allowing both to work in harmony and for love to flourish between them.

**Conclusion**

The Islamic Social System contains many laws that clearly define the various social relationships and issues arising from the interaction of men and woman. Islam provides the solution to the problems and plights generated by man-made systems.